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JAN 14 1948

MEMORANDUM TO THE STATE-ARMY-NAVY-AIR FORCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: SANAC Subcommittee on Foreign Policy Information  
FPI 29/2 - Public Information on US Aid to Turkey

1. CIA comments on subject paper are submitted herewith.
2. CIA is in agreement with the general tenor of the intelligence aspects of this paper.
3. Specifically, however, there are a few points of detail concerning which CIA recommends clarification or change; namely,

Page 1. Military:

The figure, given here, of Turkey's armed forces is high. On the date of subject paper the figure of 400,000 would be more nearly correct.

Page 2. Loss of British Support:

It is felt that one of the best arguments for US aid to Turkey is contained in the fact that the US must now replace Britain as Turkey's financial mainstay. This paragraph might well be expanded, with the adoption of a wider historical perspective than is now the case. This is particularly necessary in view of the fact that Britain's announcement of its abandonment of financial aid to Turkey in February 1946, merely confirmed a situation which had, in reality, been in effect for some years previously.

Page 7. Turkish Defense Forces a Strain on Economy:

The statement that Turkey is devoting "20% of its available manpower to the maintenance of its armed forces" requires clarification. If it means that such a percentage is under arms, it is too high. Total manpower of military age (19-45 inclusive) is approximately 3,500,000. With 400,000 men under arms, it would appear that the percentage is about 11%.

Page 9. Turkey a Democracy:

Reference is made to the "constitution of 1925." The constitution of the Turkish Republic became law on 20 April 1924.

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Reference is made to the "resignation of the President as head of party." In spite of the fact that this statement has recently appeared in a number of normally reliable US periodicals, it is still false. A few weeks prior to the date of subject report, President Inonu was re-elected for a two-year term as leader of the party he has headed for many years.

Page 10. Relationship of US Aid to UN:

The statement is made that: "The U.S.....will register the basic agreement between the U.S. and Turkey with the United Nations." The document was, in fact, registered with the United Nations in September 1947.

4. CIA is always pleased to participate in the preparation of the intelligence aspects of SANACC papers. In this case it is felt that mutual discussion during the course of its preparation would have resulted in the elimination of the points raised in paragraph 3 above.

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PABOREL/ew

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